

REMARKS

In the October 27, 2003 final Office Action, claims 2-14, 16-32, 36-48, 50, 51 and 53 stand rejected in view of prior art. On the other hand, claims 1, 15, 49 and 52 were allowed, and claims 33-35 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response, Applicant has amended claims 2, 9, 11, 16, 18, 33, 39 and 50, and cancelled claims 41-48, 51 and 53. Thus, claims 1-40, 49, 50 and 52 are pending, with claims 1, 2, 18, 33 and 49 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

In particular, the claims have been amended as indicated above to accept the allowable subject matter, in order to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 1 therein, or for consistency. Furthermore, some claims have amended to depend from a claim including the allowable subject matter from claim 1. Specifically, independent claims 2 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 1, claim 11 has been amended to place it in dependent form (i.e., to depend from allowed independent claim 1), claim 33 has been amended to place it in independent form, claim 50 has been amended to place it in dependent form (i.e., to depend from independent claim 18, which is now believed to be allowable, as mentioned above), and claims 9, 16 and 39 have been amended for consistency (i.e., to correct minor informalities in these claims). Applicant believes the foregoing amendments to the claims place this application in condition for allowance, and do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraphs 1 and 2 (pages 2-3) of the Office Action, claims 41-45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 5,690,351 to Karol. In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 41-45. Accordingly, this rejection is believed to be moot.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In paragraphs 3-10 (pages 3-13) of the Office Action, claims 2-14, 16-32, 36-48, 50, 51 and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over a variety of combinations of references. In response, Applicant has amended the claims as indicated above to accept the allowable subject matter, in order to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 1 therein, or for consistency. Furthermore, some claims have amended to depend from a claim including the allowable subject matter from claim 1. Finally, some rejected claims have been cancelled. Specifically, independent claims 2 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 1, claim 11 has been amended to place it in dependent form (i.e., to depend from allowed independent claim 1), claim 33 has been amended to place it in independent form, claim 50 has been amended to place it in dependent form (i.e., to depend from independent claim 18, which is now believed to be allowable, as mentioned above), claims 9, 16 and 39 have been amended for consistency (i.e., to correct minor informalities in these claims), and claims 41-48, 51 and 53 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant believes these rejections are moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraphs 11-12 (page 13) of the Office Action, claims 33-35 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, claims 1, 15, 49 and 52 were indicated as being allowed. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter and the thorough examination of this application. In response, Applicant has amended claim 33 to place this claim in independent form, and incorporated the allowable subject matter from claim 1 into independent claims 2 and 18, as mentioned above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant believes the Response to Arguments of paragraph 13 (pages 14 and 15) of the Office Action is moot in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims.

Serial No.: 09/836,545
Amendment dated January 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 27, 2003

* * *

In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-40, 49, 50 and 52 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick A. Hilsmier
Reg. No. 46,034

SHINJYU GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP
1233 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20036
(202)-293-0444
Dated: January 15, 2004

G:\01-JAN04-ELJSN-US015055 Amendment.doc